



Good Good Father

ELDER CHRIS KOH
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Introduction

- **I relate best with His role as our heavenly Father.**



**“A father to the fatherless, a defender of
widows, is God in His holy dwelling...”**

PSALM 68:5 (NIV)



1. Knowing God as our Father



**“Now all these things are from God, who
reconciled us to Himself through Christ and
gave us the ministry of reconciliation,”**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18 (NASB)

1. Knowing God as our Father

- **Jesus did not come just to bring us to heaven but He came to reconcile us back with God.**
- **Christianity is a relationship with God.**
- **Jesus came also to reveal that God is our loving Father.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

- **The Israelites revered God so much for His holiness that it was forbidden even to call Him by His name.**
- **The Israelites actually preferred not to get too close to God because they were fearful.**
- **They do not relate to Him as a father.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

a) Our Father Extends Unmerited Love to His Children





**See what kind of love the Father has
given to us, that we should be
called children of God . . .**

1 JOHN 3:1 (NASB)

1. Knowing God as our Father

a) Our Father Extends Unmerited Love to His Children

- We have done nothing to qualify us to be the children of God.**



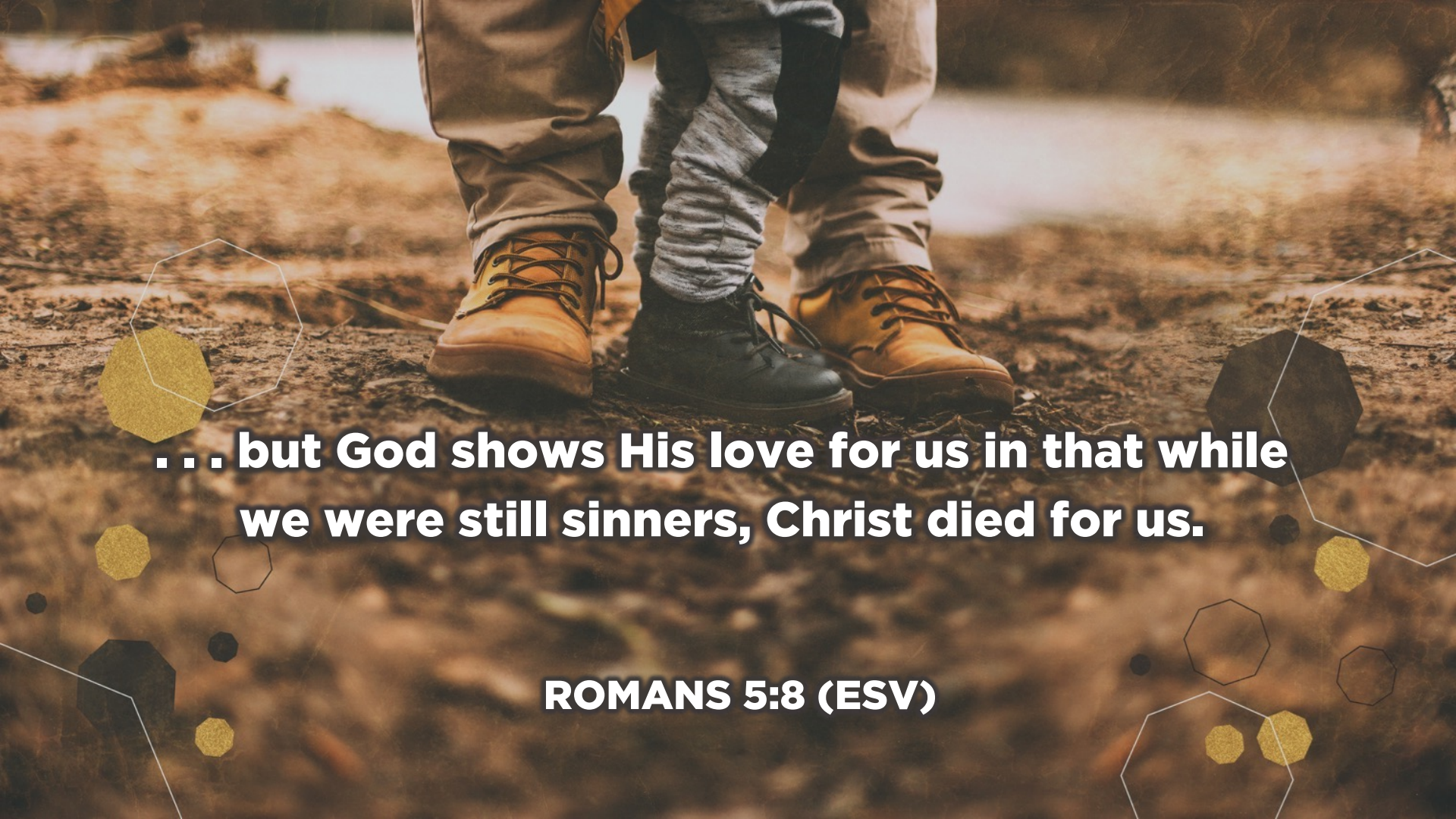
**But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our **righteousness are like filthy rags;**
We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities,
like the wind, Have taken us away.**

ISAIAH 64:6 (NKJV)

1. Knowing God as our Father

a) Our Father Extends Unmerited Love to His Children

- We have to rely on the righteousness that comes from faith in Jesus.**



**... but God shows His love for us in that while
we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

ROMANS 5:8 (ESV)

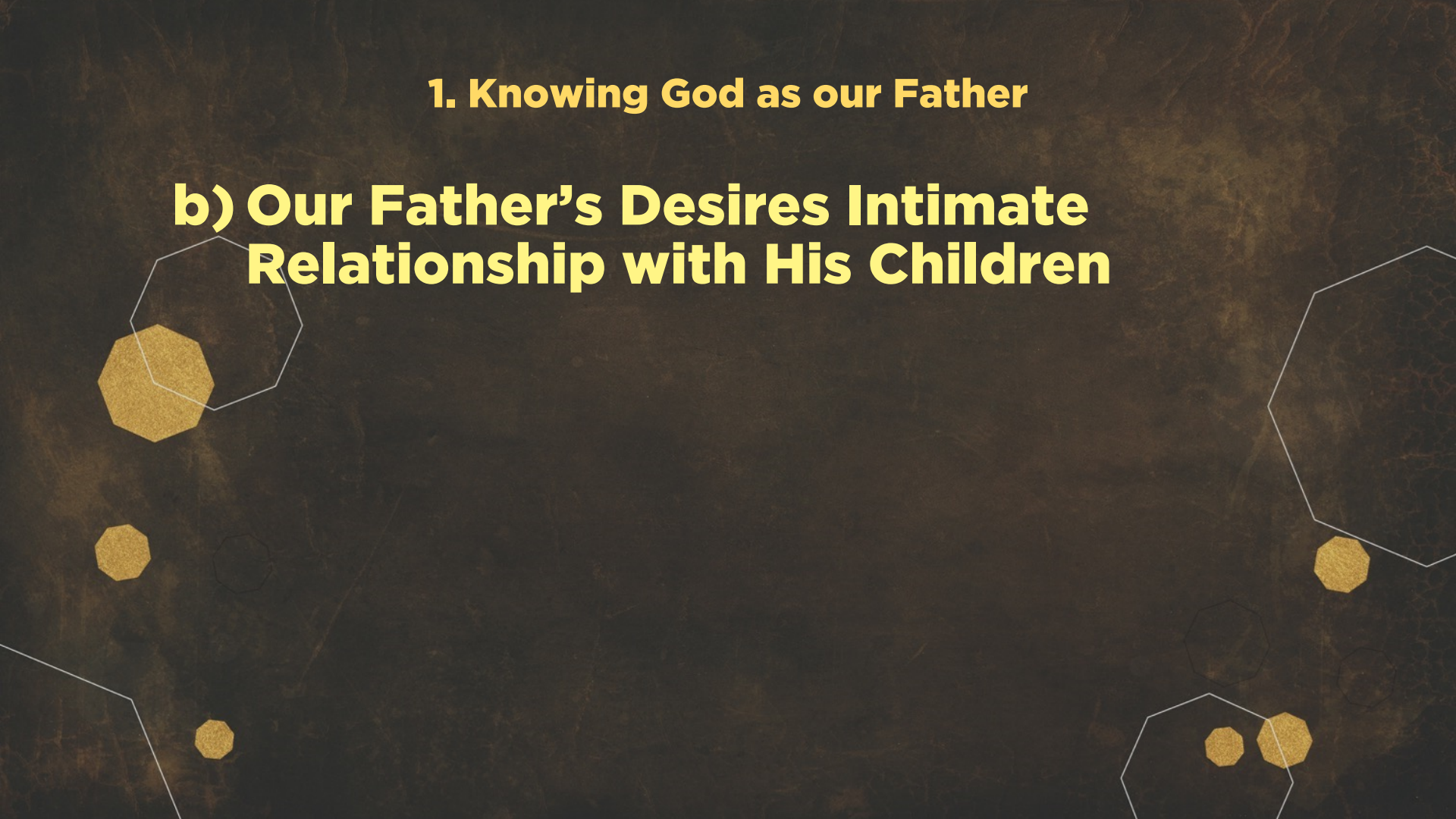
1. Knowing God as our Father

a) Our Father Extends Unmerited Love to His Children

- We are all undeserving but the Father's love for His children is unmerited.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

b) Our Father's Desires Intimate Relationship with His Children





**⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:
“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be
Your name,¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

MATTHEW 6:9-13 (ESV)



¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

MATTHEW 6:9-13 (ESV)

1. Knowing God as our Father

b) Our Father's Desires Intimate Relationship with His Children

- **Jesus taught His disciples to address God as “Our Father” in the context of His Kingdom.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

b) Our Father's Desires Intimate Relationship with His Children

- **Jesus revealed in this prayer that our Father is concerned not just with Kingdom affairs but He cares even with our personal affairs.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

b) Our Father's Desires Intimate Relationship with His Children

- Communication is essential for cultivating intimacy, and prayer is the main platform.**

A photograph of a person's lower legs and feet standing on a muddy, uneven ground. The person is wearing tan cargo pants, grey socks, and three boots: two tan and one black. In the background, a body of water is visible. The image is decorated with several geometric shapes: a large yellow hexagon on the left, a large dark grey octagon on the right, and various smaller yellow and dark grey hexagons and octagons scattered around. Thin white lines form larger geometric outlines.

**But Jesus often withdrew to
lonely places and prayed.**

LUKE 5:16 (ESV)

1. Knowing God as our Father

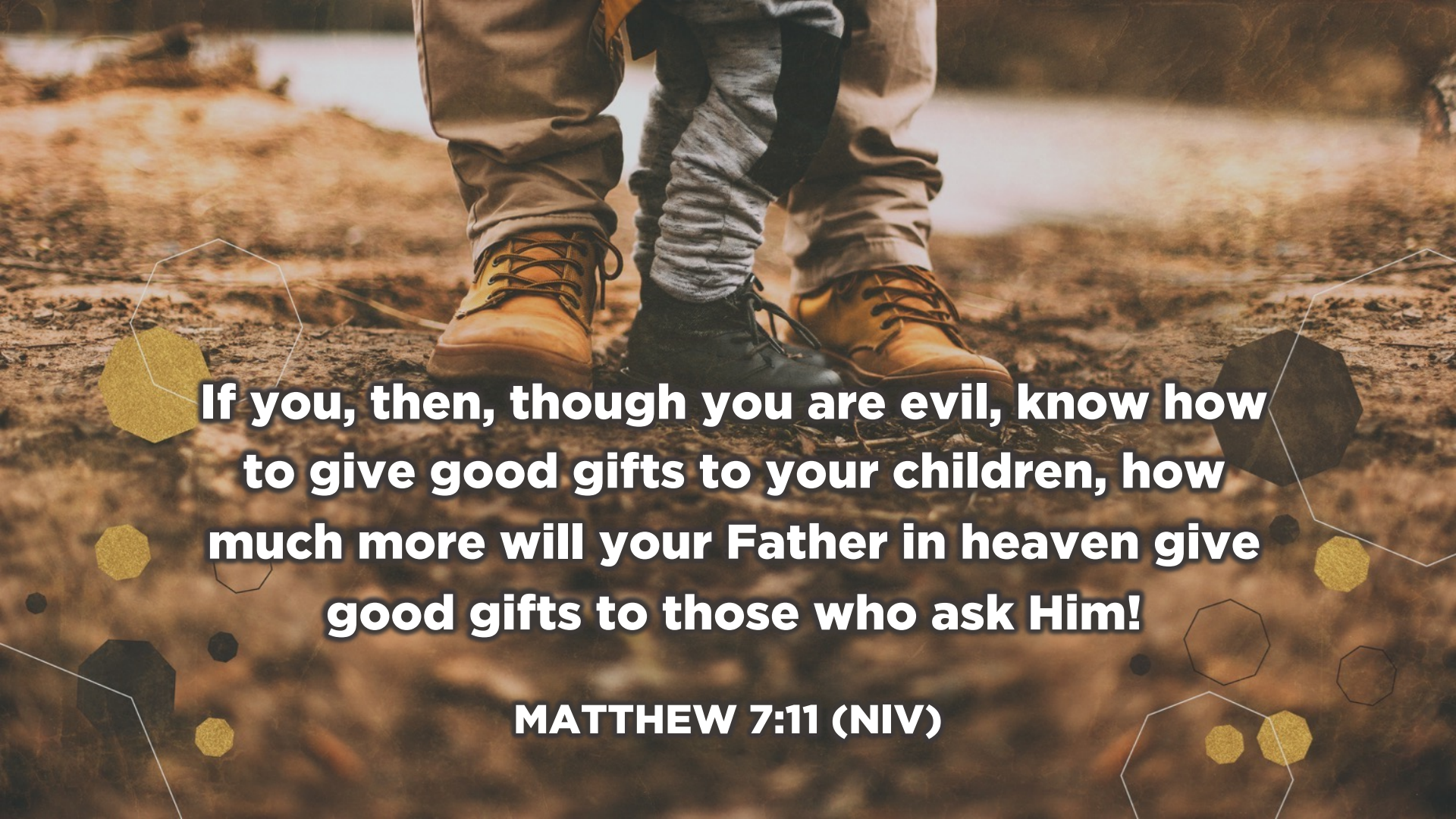
c) Our Father Delights in Meeting Our Needs





**And my God will meet all your
needs according to the riches of
His glory in Christ Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:19 (NIV)



**If you, then, though you are evil, know how
to give good gifts to your children, how
much more will your Father in heaven give
good gifts to those who ask Him!**

MATTHEW 7:11 (NIV)

1. Knowing God as our Father

c) Our Father Delights in Meeting Our Needs

- **We need not fear lack for we have a Father who can provide for us.**
- **That is an awesome privilege.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

c) Our Father Delights in Meeting Our Needs

- **Our Heavenly Father knows our needs and will meet our needs according to His way, the higher way.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

d) Our Father Disciplines the Ones He Loves

- **Tough love is difficult to accept in
today's world.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

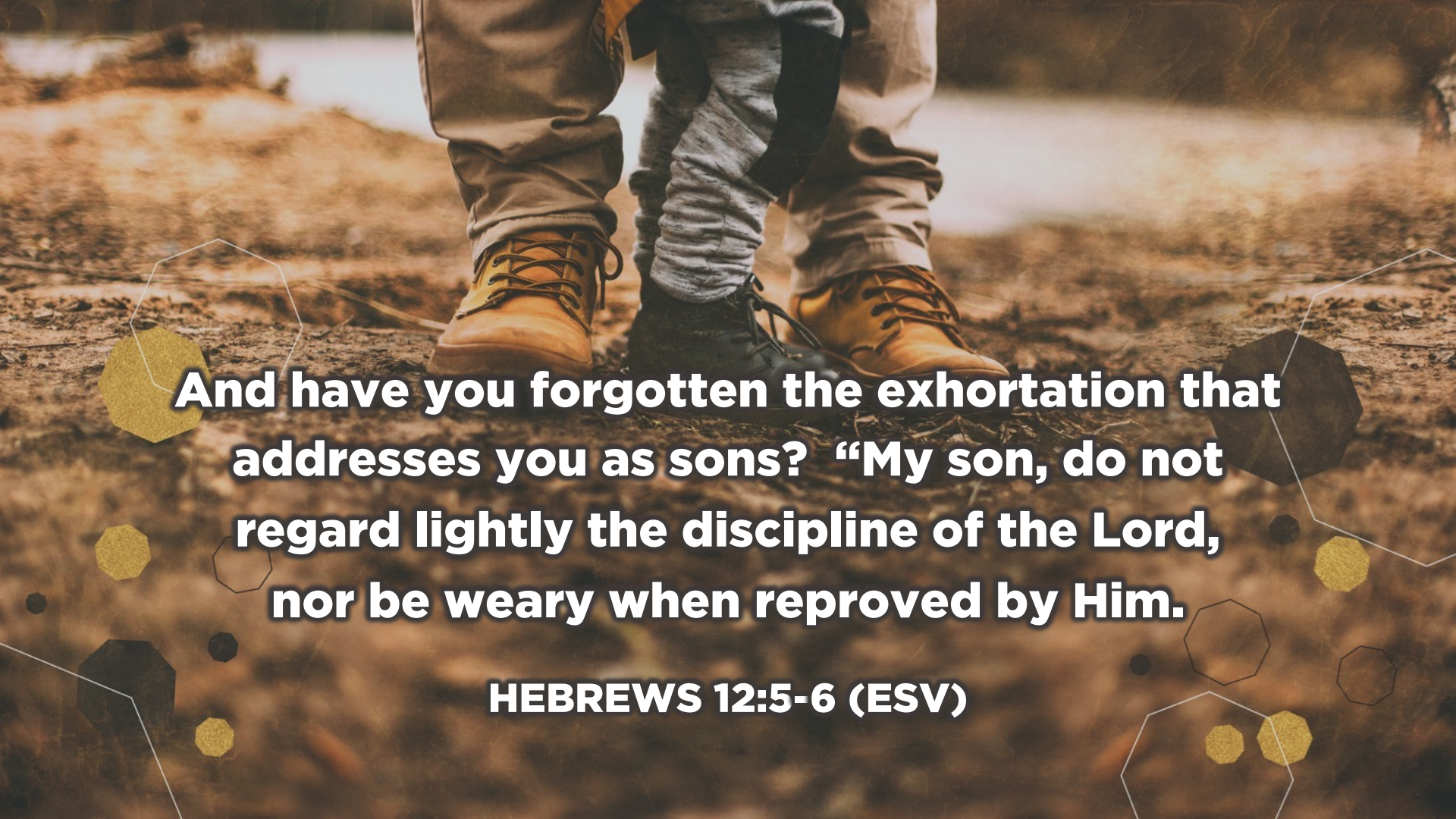
d) Our Father Disciplines the Ones He Loves

- **Webster's dictionary defines discipline as training that corrects, molds, and perfects the mental faculties or moral character.**
- **Discipline is associated with punishment for the sake of enforcing obedience.**

1. Knowing God as our Father

d) Our Father Disciplines the Ones He Loves

- **Why would a loving Father discipline, punish, or inflict pain on His children?**



And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him.

HEBREWS 12:5-6 (ESV)



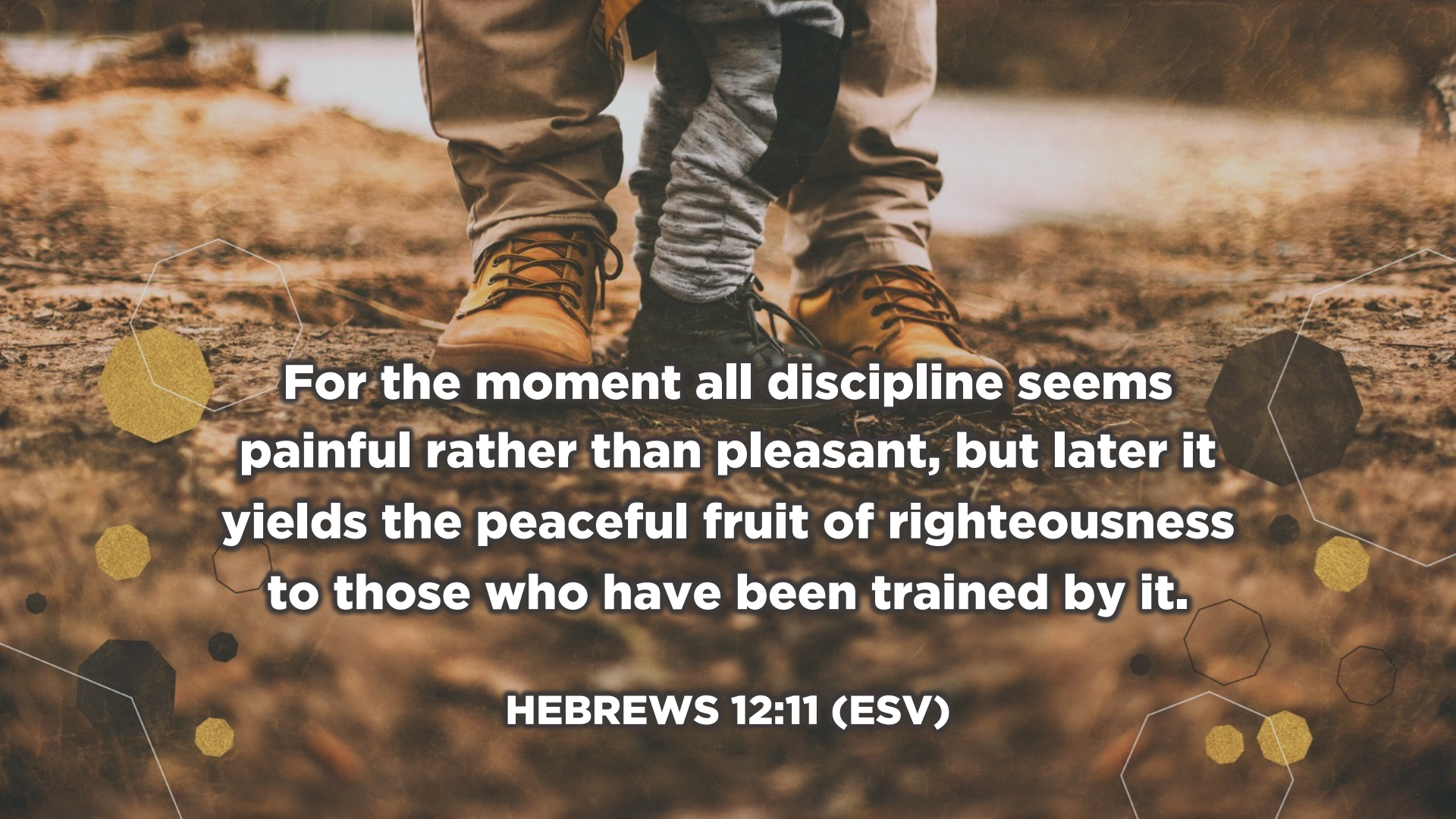
**⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one He loves,
and chastises every son whom He receives.”**

HEBREWS 12:5-6 (ESV)



**For the desires of the flesh are
against the Spirit, and the desires of the
Spirit are against the flesh, for these are
opposed to each other, to keep you from
doing the things you want to do.**

GALATIANS 5:17 (ESV)



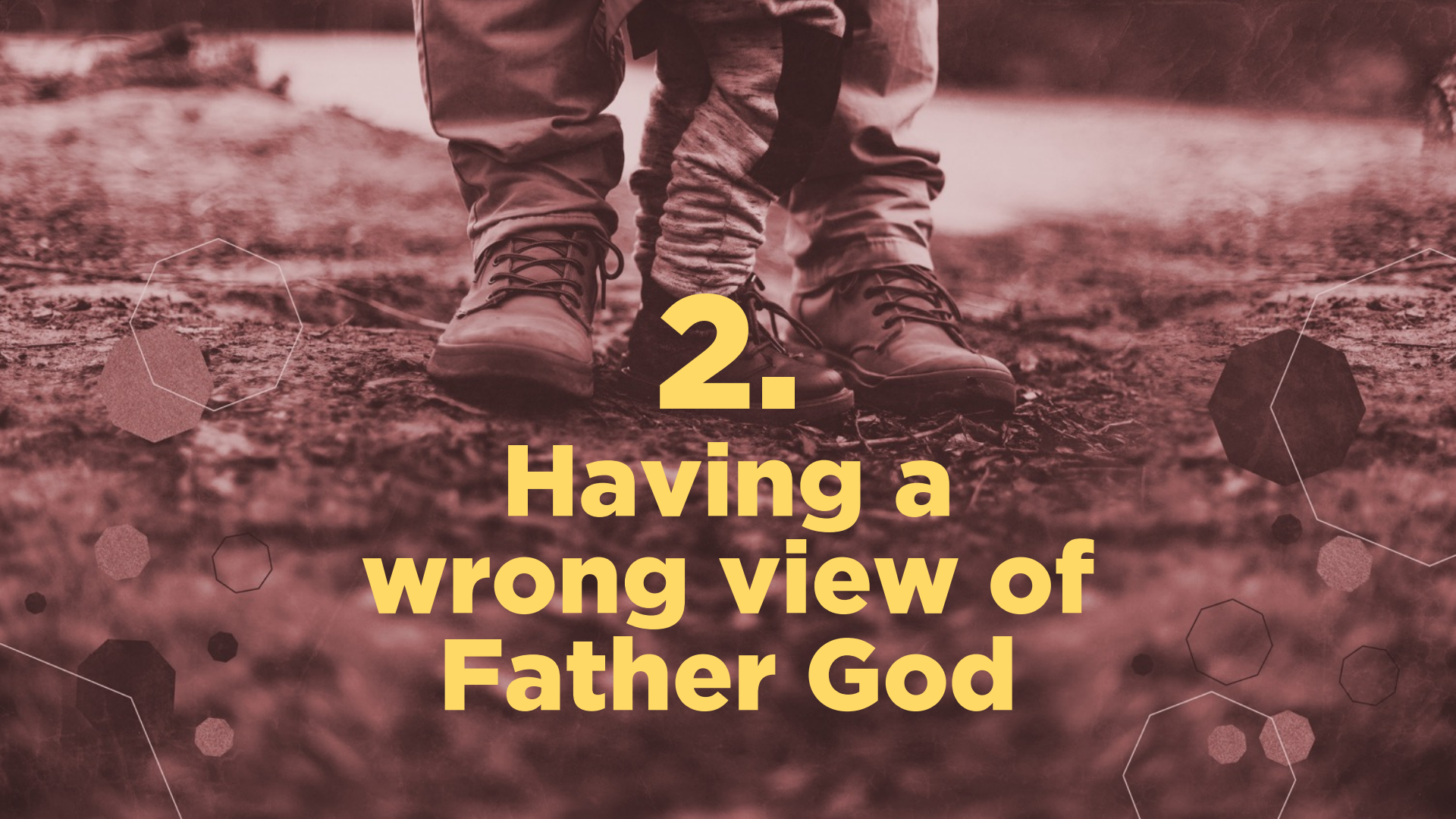
**For the moment all discipline seems
painful rather than pleasant, but later it
yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness
to those who have been trained by it.**

HEBREWS 12:11 (ESV)

1. Knowing God as our Father

d) Our Father Disciplines the Ones He Loves

- **That is a maturing process in our relationship with God.**
- **He does this even though it may be painful to us or unpleasant.**



2.

**Having a
wrong view of
Father God**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **Why is it that not everyone is enjoying an enriching and satisfying relationship with the Heavenly Father?**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **Having a wrong view of Father God prevents us from experiencing His love.**
- **Many of such wrong understandings came from their relationship with their own father at home.**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **For people in the older generation, many of our lived experiences with our father may be closer to that of a “traditional Asian father”.**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **Some of you may find it more difficult to receive unmerited love from Father God.**
- **You may find it difficult to enter into an intimate relationship with God.**
- **You may end up relating to Father God with works and not with grace.**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **For the younger generation, some of your lived experience may be closer to that of a father applying more modern parenting philosophies.**
- **You may find it easier to relate to Father God more intimately and to receive his unmerited love.**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **Children growing up in such a relationship with their father may be less receptive to Father God's discipline.**
- **and would be less likely to see discipline as an aspect of the Father's love.**

2. Having a wrong view of Father God

- **The views we have of our Heavenly Father may affect our relationship with Him and may prevent us from experiencing His love.**
- **Our good, good Heavenly Father is way better than our best fathers.**

Modelling After our Heavenly Father

- **The church has the best chance of building strong families if we can come together, encourage one another, and model after the Heavenly Father.**

Modelling After our Heavenly Father

- **Have we given unmerited love to our children?**
- **Do they feel that they need to earn our love or to live up to our standards and expectations?**

Modelling After our Heavenly Father

- **Is there a connection between us and our children?**
- **Do we know what are their greatest needs?**

Modelling After our Heavenly Father

- **Our children's greatest need is to have a godly father who can set a pattern for them and model for them how to lead a godly life so that they can be strong in their faith.**



**Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will
reap a harvest if we do not give up.**

GALATIANS 6:9 (ESV)

Modelling After our Heavenly Father

- **I have realised the need to cultivate an intimate relationship.**
- **I realised the need to seize opportunities to connect.**

A photograph of a person's lower legs and feet standing on a muddy, uneven ground. The person is wearing tan cargo pants, grey socks, and tan work boots. A black shoe is also visible between the tan boots. The background is a blurred body of water. The image is decorated with several geometric shapes: yellow and black octagons and hexagons, some with white outlines, scattered across the frame.

**Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

PROVERBS 22:6 (ESV)



CONCLUSION